

IN RECOGNITION OF EAST KENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL WINNING THE REGION THREE AWARD FOR THE "WE THE PEOPLE" 2010 NATIONAL FINALS COMPETITION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise the students, their families and educators at East Kentwood High School, located in my Congressional District, who won the Region Three Award during the national finals of the 2010 "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition. The students and teacher participating in this year's program have shown the nation the high standard of talent and education found in West Michigan.

The students studied for months before coming to Washington, DC, for the national finals. The team participated in a mock congressional hearing to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles in the U.S. Constitution. The team won local and state "We the People" contests to qualify for the national competition.

I would like to recognize the following students from East Kentwood High School for their outstanding performance: Tacy Allan, Heather Anderson, Brandon Bilski, Sam Broecker, Austin Calloway, Jessica Dippel, Christian Erwin, Natalie Eyke, Brandon Gafford, Alex Giarmo, Gorgen Grigoryan, Erin Letherby, Ian Macneil, Gwenevere Mueller, Brynley Nadziejka, Julia Nguyen, Taylor Sanchez, and Roger Taylor. Their teacher, Deb Snow, also deserves a great deal of recognition for instilling these students with a passion to learn and providing them with the knowledge they needed to succeed.

I would also like to commend the Center for Civic Education for putting on the "We the People" program and providing resources to schools in my district to help educators teach students about the U.S. Constitution. I cannot overstate how important it is for students to graduate from high school with a comprehensive understanding of how our government works. "We the People" programs should be recognized for promoting civic education, and I am pleased that it has had such a big impact in my district. Also worthy of special recognition are Linda Start and Jim Troost, the state coordinators, and Susan Laninga, the district coordinator who are responsible for implementing the "We the People" program in my district.

I am very proud of the students, their families and teacher at East Kentwood High School for winning the Region Three Award in the "We the People" competition, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them for their achievement.

HONORING RALPH ROSS ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Ralph Ross of Knoxville, Tennessee turned 100 years old

on May 3, 2010. I cannot think of a finer father, Christian, or community leader.

Ralph has had an amazing, blessed life. But despite his personal business success, he remains a humble Christian who devotes his resources, time, and heart to others.

Like many of Ralph's generation, he entered into the military during World War II after completing dental school and served admirably as the head of the dental corps at Camp Blanding, Florida.

While safeguarding the health of his fellow soldiers during the war, Ralph met the love of his life. Frances was the head of the nurse's corps at Camp Blanding, and that chance encounter would result in a 63-year marriage, two children, and four grandchildren.

Ralph served full time from April 1, 1941, to May 9, 1946. Even after the war, he continued his commitment to the United States, serving in the Reserves through the 1960s and retiring a Lieutenant Colonel.

Following his military service, Ralph got into the construction business. It takes a lot of hard work, determination, and a bit of luck to get a successful business off the ground. Ralph did it twice.

After getting much of the contract work for construction at Oak Ridge, a subcontractor ran off with most of his supplies and pay for the work. He was left with a shovel, a bulldozer, and no money.

Never one for self-pity, he started from scratch again by joining his brother in the coal business. And once again, he built a very successful business, selling it in 1982.

Ralph is a shining example of how to live a Christian life. Blessed with security on this Earth, he has never stopped giving to those who are not as fortunate.

From serving as President of the North Side Kiwanis Club in Knoxville, to his activities with Campus Crusade for Christ, YOLK Youth Ministries, Young Life, and Shriners International, Ralph spends his time helping others, especially youth. He is also a generous benefactor to the University of Tennessee.

I graduated from high school with Ralph's son Roger and used to frequently play basketball at his house. I have known Roger Ross almost his entire life.

He describes a bulletin board in their home filled with images of his father's generosity. "You name it, he was in it," Roger says. "Being a Christian was Daddy's life."

As a member of First Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, and then later Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, Ralph served as elder and deacon. He is a very outgoing individual and meeting other people is his favorite thing.

"He always told me not to lie, and he never said a harsh word about anybody. And he would always help people," Roger says. "You ask him for help, or came and asked him for money, and he would give it to you."

Ralph lives by the creed that you always help those in need, even if some folks may try to take advantage of you. "That's life," he always says. "It doesn't mean you stop helping people."

Madam Speaker, Ralph Ross, through his faith in God, continues to live an honorable life. I call his devotion to others to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD and wish him a very happy 100th birthday. Roger Ross says of his father, "He just has people everywhere that love him." I think there is no better definition than that of a good life.

CELEBRATING MOTHERS AND MOTHER'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the actions of the House of Representatives in recognizing the role of mothers. I strongly support H. Res. 1295, which recognizes the significant contributions of mothers in building strong families and communities across the nation.

Madam Speaker, as we quickly approach Mothers Day this Sunday, let us recognize the tireless efforts and contributions to society, the personal sacrifices made, and the wise guidance that mothers provide everyday. The creation of Anna Jarvis, first observed on May 10, 1908, Mothers Day serves as a day of remembrance and reflection on the unyielding love and affection that mothers provide, reminding us that no matter the distance between mother and child, the maternal bond can never be broken.

Madam Speaker, Harry Truman once said "no one in the world can take the place of your mother. Right or wrong, from her viewpoint you are always right. She may scold you for little things, but never for the big ones." Mothers play a central role in the development of our children, raising them with values and morals, inspiring and encouraging them to reach for their dreams. No one among us would be where we are without the influence and encouragement of our mothers. Although there is no salary or compensation for the efforts of mothers, their words, actions, wisdom, and love are priceless.

One of my favorite quotes about mothers states "Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, comrades and friends—but only one mother in the whole world."

I would also like to take a chance to recognize two of the mothers in my life, my mother, Mrs. Christine Callier, the woman who shaped every facet of my being as a child, and my wife Mereda, who is the light of my life. I am blessed to have two beautiful, strong and intelligent women to walk through life with.

I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution which celebrates the most important profession in the world: motherhood.

HONORING MS. IMELDA NAVARRO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Imelda Navarro, a recent inductee to the Laredo Business Hall of Fame. Ms. Navarro is currently the Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operation Officer of International Bank of Commerce in Laredo, Texas.

Ms. Navarro has contributed to the community of South Texas and the International Bank